

Wisconsin Best Practice Roundtables

In September, 2002, the Wisconsin Workforce Development Association, with the assistance of a DOL grant, sponsored a series of roundtables presenting best practices in the field. Below are summaries of some of the presentations. Additional information can be obtained from Cheryl Welch, Association Secretary at 920/ 720-5600.

Roseanne Mason
Diversity Circles

In the fall of 1999, the Diversity Circles Program for Dismantling Racism was created and was modeled after Study Circles Resource Center located in Pomfret Connecticut. In a typical Diversity Circles session, groups of approximately 8-12 citizens, in face-to-face setting, focus together on public concerns, such as racism, youth issues, and police/community issues. This brings the knowledge of everyday people to contend with difficult issues. An impartial facilitator is present to help the discussion stay focused; it is important to note that the facilitator does not add his/her opinion, but is present strictly to keep the conversation from diverging from the current topic. The mission is to build a stronger community by expanding the participation of citizens—diverse in all ways—in dialogues that will foster greater understanding, cooperation, and community participation. The goal is to build a diverse community-wide network that will develop solutions to racial tensions and social problems.

Cheryl Welch
Richard Turner
Shared Vision of One Stop Partners

In this presentation the objectives are to identify how to develop a shared business plan and continuous improvement strategies that reflect the broad goals of the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) while respectful of programmatic outcomes, develop a common data collection tool that compares “apples to apples” of the system, to develop “point of service” common customer satisfaction surveys for a job seekers, employed workers, and employers that provides insight for best practices and opportunities for improvement across the workforce development area one-stop systems, and to identify the tools for the one-stop partners coordinated delivery system.

The Fox Valley Workforce Development Area one-stop partners have developed a common data reporting system shared by six centers. All center partners in each center report their activities and customers served on a monthly basis. This allows the various center management teams to better access services provided. The compilation of this information also provides the WIB with a big picture of what is happening in the entire region.

Tracey Meek
Jobs with a Future

The Jobs with a Future Partnerships focus on three industries-- business services, health care and manufacturing-- with the goal of developing career paths and upward mobility opportunities for areas residents while solving employers occupational and skill shortages. Partnerships members can expect to learn how to recruit and retain workers, to participate in shared training, to contribute and learn from cross-firm sharing and benchmarking, and to build lasting relationships with local public and private sector agencies.

Seth Lentz

A Local Need and a Local Solution

As employment and training programs evolve so has our technology and our ability to utilize technology to address local needs. In Southwest WI during our program development and implementation a need to be able to be met with the current systems in place at a state level. We developed a system to collect track and share information with case managers, partner agencies, community agencies, our local Workforce Development Board and enhance our program management capabilities all with one system.